

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13
ACDA-07 DHA-02 /076 W
-----300900Z 029177 /14

R 291527Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4719
INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE
AMEMBASSY MBABANE
AMEMBASSY MASERU

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 3492

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, ZA, BC, MI, LT, WZ
SUBJ: GRZ AND UNIP DISSOCIATE THEMSELVES FOR EDITORIAL CRITICISM
OF SOUTHERN AFRICAN NEIGHBORS

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. IN ITS DECEMBER 28 EDITORIAL THE TIMES OF ZAMBIA
HARSHLY CRITICIZED MALAWI, BOTSWANA, LESOTHO, AND
SWAZILAND FOR CONDEMNING APARTHEID IN INTERNATIONAL
FOR A WHILE ENRICHING THEMSELVES FROM COOPERATION WITH
THE SYSTEM BY SENDING THEIR NATIONALS TO WORK IN SOUTH
AFRICA.

2. THE GRZ REACTED UNUSUALLY STRONGLY TO THE ARTICLE BY
REQUIRING BOTH LOCAL PAPERS TO CARRY NOTICE THE FOLLOWING
DAY DISSOCIATING THE PARTY AND GOVERNMENT FROM THE
CRITICISM LEVELED IN THE TIMES EDITORIAL. A SPOKESMAN
FOR THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS SAID THAT THE OPINION
WAS THE PAPER'S OWN VIEWPOINT AND STRESSED THAT NON-
INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHER COUNTRIES WAS
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ONE OF THE CORNERSTONES OF ZAMBIAN FOREIGN POLICY. END
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COMMENT: THE GRZ'S STRONG REACTION TO THE TIMES
EDITORIAL WAS PROBABLY PROMPTED BY A DESIRE TO AVOID

GENERATING A PUBLIC CONTROVERSY OVER SOUTHERN
AFRICAN COUNTRIES' RELATIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA. IN
SUCH A CONTROVERSY ZAMBIA ITSELF COULD BE SUBJECTED
TO CRITICISM BECAUSE OF ITS EXTENSIVE TRADE AND OTHER
ECONOMIC TIES WITH SOUTH AFRICA. SUCH A CONTROVERSY
COULD RESULT IN AN EXCHANGE OF ALLEGATIONS WHICH THE
GRZ WOULD PREFER TO AVOID. END CONFIDENTIAL.
LOW

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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